

Q # 1853

Evidentiary Document # 5312.

WILKIE DESMOND COLLINS.

SYDNEY, MONDAY, 8th JUNE, 1942. AT 12 NOON.

NX57343 DRIVER WILKIE DESMOND COLLINS, 2/10 F.A., being duly sworn, states:

I am NX57343, DRIVER WILKIE DESMOND COLLINS, 2/10 Field Ambulance. I arrived in New Britain in March, 1941, and remained with the 2/10 Field Ambulance until evacuated. Throughout this period I was at the hospital at NAMANULA, RABAU, until the day before the Japanese landing. On that date I took a load of wounded to VUNAPOE MISSION near KOKORO where they were taken in. The civilian nurses were already at VUNAPOE. The Army nurses arrived while I was there. The hospital was set up at the Mission Hospital. The Army and civilian nurses were quartered at the Mission two or three hundred yards from the hospital.

I left about 0800 on the day of the landing with an ambulance to go to TOMA expecting to pick up wounded. I was in a convoy with several trucks. We got to TOMA but there was nothing there so we went to MALABUNGA and set up a hospital at the Mission there under Major Palmer and Captain Robertson. We were there nearly all day, and then all troops were evacuated from the north to the hills and expected to continue fighting there. One of our medical officers picked out a number of medical volunteers to go with the troops, and I volunteered. We walked for two days in the hills and carried supplies and kept on going without any organisation, and could not find headquarters; so we kept going. Someone spread a rumour that we were going to be evacuated from some point on the coast. We reached the coast at ADLER BAY. We were there for two days, and ~~many~~ of the chaps were footsore and a couple of our chaps remained with them, and we were going further down the coast where there was supposed to be a telereidic. I did not get down that far, but was captured at TOL.

BY THE COURT: What happened when you got to Tol? Tell us how you came to be captured, what happened afterwards, and how you got away?---We were just past ROSS's plantation, and on the edge of the first of three rivers a lot of men were trying to cross. We were awaiting our turn, and five Japanese barges came into the bay and started shelling troops in the village, and machine gunning them, so we ran up the river to a point where we were able to wade across. We eventually crossed the three rivers, and at a Mission there there were Clissold and myself. Two barges landed, and we were caught there. We did not see them coming into the beach. They fired mortars and machine guns across the Mission and we dived into a creek. There was a party of Japanese above us, and they took us back and put us on one of the barges and took us to another plantation further south in the direction in which we were originally going. It was dark when they reached the shore, so they went back to Ross's plantation, just near TOL.

Were there any other Australians on the barges besides you two?---A civilian policeman named Nolty. They put us ashore at Ross's near TOL.

Up to that time, had they treated you well?---Yes, quite well.

Had they fed you?---No; but one chap gave us some of his rations; and they gave us cigarettes.

Ex # 1853

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H.D. Collins (cont.)

Did they put you ashore at TOL?---Yes, at midnight, and all the troops they had captured in the morning were in that village. They put us in a hut in *which* there were about 60. At daybreak they took us out and took our names and numbers on a piece of paper, and later they lined us up and counted us, and they marched us to TOL. There were 123. The Japanese counted us in English and he said there should be more, and asked what happened to them. Then they marched the whole party to TOL about a mile away. At TOL we sat down for a while and then they took our identity discs and gave some of them back and then took them again, and then they took all our personal belongings and pay books and tied us up in parties of 10 or 12 after having tied our hands behind our backs. Some more chaps walked down then, and they were captured. They marched us back towards RABAU on the track of the plantation and the parties broke off the track into the undergrowth.

How far was that from the house?---About a quarter of a mile.

What time of day was this?---About 1000 hours. Then they told us to sit down. All the parties went in different directions, and I could see only our own party of 12. An officer pulled out a sword and he cut one joker loose and he walked him into the bush signalling him to go. He followed with a fixed bayonet. I heard a scream, and the Japanese soldier came back wiping his bayonet. Another two or three went like that. One broke loose and jumped up and tried to run for it, and the officer hit him with his sword and then shot him. One chap asked to be shot - in my presence - and the officer shot him with an automatic revolver. Clissold got up with the Red Cross on his arm and tried to tell him that he was in the 2/10 Field Ambulance, but the Japanese just ripped off the arm band and took it.

Did the Japanese say anything?---No. I was the last one left, and the Japanese troops were away in the bush and the officer was left by himself. He put away his sword and took a rifle. He motioned me to get up and to walk. I took a few paces and he shot me through the shoulder. I fell on the ground and kept still. He fired again and he hit me through both wrists and in the back. He decided he had finished me, and he went away. I could not move for about a quarter of an hour. The bullet which went through my wrist had cut the line with which I had been tied, and I got up and made off into the bush.

Did you see any of the bodies of your mates before you left?---I saw about half a dozen bodies of my mates on the ground.

Had they covered you with leaves?---No.

Had they covered any of the others?---No. The men were just lying on the ground. I got up and walked about a mile and crawled into a big clump of bush at the foot of a range of hills and remained there for a few days. Then I climbed up to the top of the range and walked along, and came back through the bush to the house on Ross's plantation where they had been and the Japs had gone. I went into the hut and found a lot of bananas so I stayed there a couple of days and went to the place where we had been searched, to try to find any equipment that would be of use, but I found everything had been burned. I found two chaps, who had been bayoneted, in one of the huts.

W.D. Collins (cont.)

Do you know their names?---I had nothing with which to write their names down. They told me their names. I took them back to Ross's place where the bananas were and put them in the house. One of them was very bad, and the other chap might have lived. After putting them there I stayed there for a while, and eventually a party of civilians came. The party comprised W.O. Feetun, Mr. Crawley, Mr. Sexton and Mr. Palmer. I had been trying to get to the missionary to get the priest to look after these chaps, and I could not get over the rivers. When the civilians came, I went with them towards the mission. We just crossed the last of the rivers when a destroyer came into the harbour, and we went into the bush and stayed there two days. When we came out to see what was doing, the destroyer was just going out of ADLER BAY, and Ross's house was on fire. That was two days after I left the TOL plantation. We went on from there and came to a plantation, and just before the missionary had made arrangements with the planter there to feed us. Then a party from the north coast came to pick us up. It was Mr. Holland's party, and he went back to the north coast. Some other chaps who came along said they found two bodies in the house. I then came under Captain Appel's orders and eventually went to IBOKE and from there I was evacuated on the "Lakatoi".

What was your condition when you came out on the "Lakatoi"?---I was still pretty sick.

How was the treatment from the time you got back to the north coast?---It was good.

And on the "Lakatoi"?---Good. I could not have got better treatment. Mrs. Baker, Mr. Frank Holland and Capt. Appel did everything they could for us.

Did you see any officer there dressed in Australian uniform with the Japanese? ---No, but one of the wounded I took to Mrs. Ross's house told me that there was a Scotsman with the Japanese who said he had joined the Japanese to fight the Chinese, and could not get out of fighting the Australians for the Japs. This man did not say how that officer was dressed.

Do you know anything about a party of 23 who surrendered on the beach?--- I did not see it; but I saw the Japanese separating them.

When they lined you up and counted you, did they separate them?--- When they took us to TOL plantation and took our discs away, I think it was an attempt then to find those who had surrendered. They separated those chaps.

Was anything said about it?---The Japanese were arguing about it, and the Australians were arguing, too.

What was the argument about?---There were 22 surrendered in one place on the beach and another 20 somewhere else, and they all reckoned they all surrendered at the same time, and they were arguing about that. The Japanese did not agree, and said there were only 22. They separated 22 from the rest.

Did you see any incident or anything happen which might have led to some Japanese retaliation?---No, I did not see anything at all.

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4.

W.D. Collins (cont.)

Was there any resistance by any of you after you were taken prisoner - any breakaway, or anything?---Unless it was that when they counted us and found there were 123 and said there should be more. Some of them might have escaped in the night.

However, the Japanese gave you no explanation nor did they say anything which would give you an idea of what was in their minds?---No.

As far as you could see, the behaviour of the troops after capture was correct and as it should have been?---Yes. I have no idea why it was done.

Is there anything else you could bring in which would help us?---I think I gave Colonel Hoare a statement.

Did you see any of the men actually being bayoneted?---Yes.

Not being taken into the bush at all?---Only the last couple, who were just near me.

I suppose the Japanese soldiers who did the bayoneting were ordered to do it?---I did not hear an order given by anyone at any time.

It was apparently all pre-arranged?---Yes.

(Sgd.) NX57343
W.D. Collins.

Certified true copy.

J.F. Mornane
..... Lieut. Col.
Australian Military Forces.

FILE COPY

RETURN TO ROOM 361

書證第五三一二號

ウイルキー・デスモンド・コリンズ

一九四二年／昭和十七年／六月八日、月曜日

正午十二時「シドニー」ニ於テ

第二／十衛生隊付自動車手、ウイルキー・デス
モンド・コリンズ（N X 五七三四三）ハ正當ニ宣
誓ヲ爲シタル上、左ノ如ク陳述ス。

私ハ第二／十衛生隊附自動車手ウイルキー・デ
スモンド・コリンズ（N X 五七三四三）デス。一
九四一年／昭和十六年／三月私ハ「ニュー・ブリ
テン」ニ到着シ、接收スルマデ第二／十衛生隊ニ
居リマシタ。コノ期間中、日本軍上陸ノ前日迄、
私ハ「ラブウル」、「ナマスラ」ノ病院ニ居リマ
シタ。其ノ日私ハ負傷者達ヲ果セテ、彼等ガ收容
サレル「ココボ」近クノ「ブナボベ」教會ニ運シ
テ行キマシタ。「ブナボベ」ニハ既ニ民間看護婦
達ガ居リマシタ。陸軍看護婦達ハ私ガ其處ニ居ル
間ニ到着シマシタ。病院ハ教會附屬病院内ニ設ケ
ラレマシタ。陸軍並ニ民間看護婦達ハ病院カラ二、
三百碼離レタ教會内ニ宿泊スルコトニナリマシタ。

私ハ日本軍上陸日ノ八時頃、負傷者ヲ收容スル

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續リテ、患者運搬車ヲ驅ツテ、「トマ」ニ出掛ケ
マシタ。私ハ敵台ノ自動賞車ノ襲撃隊ニキマシタ。
我々ハ「トマ」ニ着キマシタガ、何事モナイノデ、
「マラブンガ」ニ進ミ、「バーマー」少佐ト「ロ
バートソン」大尉ノ指揮デ、兵處ノ敵舎ニ病院ヲ
設ケマシタ。我々ハ殆ド一日中兵處ニ居リマシタ
ガ、ソレカラ全部隊ハ北方カラ丘陵地隊ニ撤退シ
テ、ソコデ戦闘ヲ續ケルモノト思ハレマシタ。軍
醫ノ一人ハ、部隊ト一緒ニ行ク衛生志願兵ヲ多數
選ビマシタガ、私モソレヲ志望シマシタ。我々ハ
二日間丘陵地帯ヲ歩キ、補給品ヲ運ンデ、バラ々
々ニナツテ進ンデ行キマシタガ、司令部ハ見ツカ
リマセンデシタ。ソコデ、我々ハナホ歩キ續ケマ
シタ。誰カガ、味方ハ海岸ノ東地點カラ撤退シヨ
ウトシテキルノダトイフ噂ヲ立テマシタ。我々ハ
「アルダー」灣ノ沿岸ニ進シマシタ。我々ハ其處
ニ二日間居マシタ。多クノ者が足ヲ傷メテ居マシ
タガ、我々ノ中ノ二名ハ、彼等ト共に残り、我々
ハ無線機ガアルト思ハレテ居タ海岸ニ向ツテ、更
ニ進ンデ行キマシタ。私ハ其處迄行キ着カナイデ、
「トル」テ捕ヘラレマシタ。
裁判官「アナタガ「トル」ニ着イタ時、ドンナコ

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トが起リマシタカ。アナタハドウシテ捕ヘラレ
ルヤウニナツタカ、其後ドンナコトが起ツタカ、
ドウシテ逃シタカ、話シテ下サイ。――
我々ハ丁度「ロス」農場ヲ通り過ギテ、三ツノ
中ノ第一番目ノ河ノ岸デ、多数ノ者が、渡渉シ
ヨウトシテ居マシタ。我々が順番ヲ待ツテ居ル
ト、日本軍ノ舟艇五隻ガ灣内ニ入ツテ來テ、村
莊内ノ部隊ニ對シ砲撃ト、機銃掃射ヲ始メマシ
タノデ、我々ハ渡渉出來ル地點迄河ヲ馳ケ上リ
マシタ。我々ハ遂ニ三ツノ河ヲ渡リマシタガ、
ソコノ藪會デハ「クリソルト」ト私ダケデシタ。
二隻ノ舟艇ガ着イテ、我々ハソコデ捕ヘラレマ
シタ。我々ハ舟艇ガ岸ニヤツテ來ルノヲ見ナカ
ツタノデス。ソレヲノ舟艇ハ白砲ト機銃ヲ發シ
倉ニ彈ヲ込シテ來タノデ、我々ハ小川ニ飛込ミ
マシタ。日本兵ノ一隊ガ我々ノ川上ニ居テ、我
々ヲ引キ戻シ一隻ノ舟艇ニ乗セテ、更ニ南方ノ
我々が最初ニ行カウトシテキタ方向ニアルモウ
一ツノ農園ニ運レテ行キマシタ。彼等ガ岸ニ到
着シタ時ニハモウ暗カツタノデ、彼等ハ「トル」
ノ近クノ「ロス」農園ニ引返シマシタ。

舟艇ニハ、アナタ方二名ノ外ニ、歐洲人が乗
ツテ居マシタカ。――「ノルテイ」トイフ響

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4.

官が来ッテキマシタ。彼等ハ我々ヲ「トル」ノ
近クノ「ロス」農場デ上陸サセマシタ。

ソノ時迄、彼等ハアナタ方ヲ丁寧ニ取扱ヒマ
シタカ。――ハイ、可ナリ丁寧デシタ。

彼等ハ、アナタ方ニ食料ヲ供シマシタカ。――
――イ、エ、ダガ、我々が自分ノ糧食ヲ我々ニ分
ケテ呉レマシタ。原草ハ呉レマシタ。

彼等ハ、アナタ方「トル」ニ上陸サセタノデ
スカ。――サウデス。夜中デシタ。午前中彼
等が捕ヘタ部隊ハ全クソノ村ニ居リマシタ。我
々ハ約六十名ハイッテキタ小屋ニ入レラレマシ
タ。夜明ケ、彼等ハ我々ヲ遅レ出シ、右前ト番
號ヲ紙片ニ書き取リマシタ。ソレカラ我々ヲ並
バセテ、數ヲ取リ、「トル」ニ向ッテ行進サセ
マシタ。百二十三名居マシタ。日本人ハ英語デ
我々ヲ教ヘテ、モット居ル筈ダト言ヒ、他ノ者
ハドウシタノカト尋ネマシタ。ソレカラ彼等ハ
全部ノ者ヲ、約一哩離レタ「トル」ニ行進サセ
マシタ。我々ハ「トル」デ暫ク休息ヲ下シマシタ
ガ、ソレカラ彼等ハ我々ノ認識票ヲ取リ上ゲ、
一部ハ返シテ呉レマシタガ、ソレモ又取上ゲテ
仕舞ヒマシタ。ソシテ我々ノ私物、修給簿ヲ全
部取リ上ゲ、兩手ヲ後手ニ縛ッタ上、十名カ十

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二名ヲ一組ニシテ我々ヲ案内シテ仕舞ヒマシタ。
ソノ時更ニ數名ノ者ガヤツテ來テ、俘虜ニサレ
マシタ。日本人ハ我々ヲ「ラバウル」ノ方向ニ
向ツテ、農園ノ道ヲ行進サセマシタ。ソシテ組
々ガ道カラ外レテ叢林中ニハイツテ行キマシタ。

ソレハ家カラドノ位離レテ居マシタカ。――
――四分ノ一哩位デシタ。

ソレハ何時頃デシタカ。――午前十時頃デ
シタ。ソレカラ日本人ハ我々ニ戻ラ下セト言ヒ
マシタ。各組ハソレゾレ異ツタ方向ニ行キマシ
タノデ、私ハ十二名ノ自分ノ組ダケシカ見ルコ
トガデキマセンデシタ。一人ノ將校ガ、刀ヲ拔
イテ、一人ノ縄目ヲ切り、其者ニ合圖シテ、叢
林中ニ歩イテ行カセマシタ。將校ハ着剣シタ銃
ヲ以テ後カラツイテ行キマシタ。叫ビ聲ガ聞エ、
日本兵ガ彼ノ銃剣ヲ拭ヒナガラ戻ツテ來マシタ。
更ニ二、三名ノ者ガ同様ノ目ニアヒマシタ。一
人ガ縄目ヲ切ツテ、跳ビ上リ、逃ゲヨウトシマ
シタガ、將校ガ刀デ斬リツケタ上、射撃シマシ
タ。一人ハ――私ノ面前デ一撃ツテクレト申出デ
マシタ。スルト將校ハ自動拳銃デ彼ヲ撃チマシ
タ。「クリソルド」ハ腕ノ赤十字章ヲ示シナガ
ラ立テ上リ、第二ノ十衛生隊員デアルコトヲ將

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校ニ話サウトシマシタカ、彼ハソノ隨章ヲ剥ギ取ツテ、取り上げて仕舞ヒマシタ。

日本人ハ何カ言ヒマシタカ。――――イイエ、私が最後ニ一人残サレマシタ。日本人ノ部隊ハ叢林中ニ去ツテ、將校ダケ残リマシタ。彼ハ刀ヲ帶メ、銃ヲ執リマシタ。彼ハ私ニ立ツテ歩ク様ニ合圖シマシタ。私が數歩進ムト、彼ハ私ノ肩ヲ撃チ抜キマシタ。私ハ地面ニ倒レ、ジツトシテ居マシタ。彼ハ又撃チマシタ。ソレハ私ノ兩手頸ト背中ニ當リマシタ。彼ハ私ヲヤツツケタト思ツテ、行ツテ仕舞ヒマシタ。私ハ約十五分バカリ、動ケマセンデシタ。私ノ手頸ヲ撃チ抜イタ彈丸ハ私ヲ縛ツテキタ繩目ヲ切ツテ呉レマシタ。私ハ起キ上ツテ、叢林中ニ逃ゲ込ミマシタ。

アナタハ立去ル前ニ、仲間ノ屍體ヲ見マシタカ。――――私ハ地上ニ六名バカリノ仲間ノ屍體ヲ見マシタ。

日本人ハアナタヲ藥デ擧ヒマシタカ。――――イイエ。

他ノ者達ノ中デ誰カ擧ハレテキマシタカ。――――イイエ。地面ニ倒ガツテ居ルダケデシタ。

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私ハ立チ上ツテ、約一哩ホド歩キ、丘陵地帯ノ
境ニアル大キナ叢林ニ通入り込ンデ、其處デ數
日留ツテ居マシタ。ソレカラ私ハ丘陵地帯ノ頂
上ニ登リ、歩キ續ケテ、叢林ヲ通り、日本人ガ
以前居テ、今ハ居ナクナツタ「ロス」農園ノ家
ニ戻リマシタ。私ハ小産ニハイツテ、澤山ノバ
ナナヲ見ツケタノデ、二三日間ソコニ滞在シマ
シタ。ソシテ何カ役ニ立ツ器具ヲ探サウト思ツ
テ、我々が身體検査ヲサレタ場所ニ行ツテ見マ
シタ。然シ總テハ焼却シテアリマシタ。一ツノ
小屋ニ、銃剣デ刺サレタ二名ノ者が居リマシタ。

！　！　！　！　！　！　！

アナタハ海岸デ降伏シタ二十三名ノ一隊ニツ
イテ、何カ知ツテキマスカ。　！　！　！私ハソレヲ
見マセンデシタ。然シ日本人ガ彼等ヲ他ノ者カ
ラ別ケテ居ルノヲ見タコトガアリマス。

日本人ガアナタ方ヲ並ベテ、數ヘタ時ニ、彼
等ヲ別ケタノデスカ。　！　！　！日本人ガ我々ヲ「
トル」農園ニ連れて行キ、認讓票ヲ取り上ゲタ
ノハ、降伏シタ者達ヲ見ツケル爲ダツタト思ヒ
マス。日本人ハ、ソレヲノ者ヲ別ニシマシタ。

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ソレニツイテ、何カ言ツテマシタカ。――
日本人ハソレニツイテ、議論シテキマシタ。又
澳洲人モ議論シテキマシタ。

ドウイフ議論デシタカ。――海岸ノ或場所
デ二十二名ガ投降シ、別ノドコカデ、更ニ二十
名ガ投降シタノデスガ、日本人ハ全部ガ同時ニ
降伏シタノダト思ツテ、ソノ點デ議論シテキタ
ノデス。日本人ハ納得シナイデ、二十二名シカ
居ナイト言ヒマシタ。彼等ハ二十二名ヲ他ノ者
カラ別ケマシタ。

アナタハ何カ日本人ニ復讐行爲ヲサセル様ナ
事件又ハ事柄ノ起ツタノヲ見タコトガアリマス
カ。――イイエ。全然見タコトハアリマセン。

アナタ方ガ俘虜ニナツテカラ逃走トカ何トカ、
難カ抵抗シマシタカ。――日本人ガ我々ヲ救
ヘテ、百二十三名シカ居ナイノデ、モット居ル
筈ダト言ツタ時以外、何モアリマセンデシタ。
若干ノ者ハ夜ノ中ニ逃走シタカモ知レマセン。

然シ日本人ハ、彼等ガドウイフコトヲ考ヘテ
居ルカラアナタ方ニ解ラセル様ナ説明モ何モシ
ナカツタノデセウ。――何モシマセンデシタ。

アナタノ知ツテ居ル限りデハ、俘虜ニナツテ

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カラノ部隊ノ行動ハ、正當デ、當然ノ行動ヲト
ツタワケデスネ。――サウデス。私ニハ何故
アツタコトニナツタノカ分リマセン。

其ノホカ何カコテラノ參考ニナルヤウナコト
ハアリマセンカ。――「ホア――」大佐ニ陳述
書ヲ出シタト思ヒマスガ。

アナタハ實際ニ誰カガ銃剣デ刺サレルトコロ
ヲ見タコトガアリマスカ。――ハイ。

全然殺害ニ遅レテ行カレズニデスカ。――
私ノスグソバニ居タ最後ノ二人ダケデシタガ。

銃剣デ突キ刺シタ日本兵達ハ、サウスルヤウ
ニ命令サレタノダト思ヒマスガ。――私ハ一
度モ誰カガ命令スルノヲ聞イタコトハアリマセ
ン。

スベテ前以テ決メテアツタ様子デスネ。――
――サウデス。

N X 五七三四三

W . D . コリンス (署名)

右ハ真正ノ寫本ナルコトヲ證明ス。

濠洲軍陸軍中佐

T . F . モーネン (署名)